9th August 1929]

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" In that case it is still more easy ; the committee will consider the question."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" May I know whether the Government have considered the question of encouraging hand-spinning and hand-weaving of cotton as cottage industries and what conclusion they have come to ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" They are considering the whole matter. They have not come to any conclusions."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" With reference to the suggestion made in the valuable report sent by the Special Officer, Mr. Narayana Rao, at page 5 of the last general report, may I ask what action the Government are taking on the suggestion that the definition of cottage industries given by the Government has too narrow a scope and should be amplified so that something good may be done to cottage industries ? "

The hon. the President :—" The question does not arise."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—" May I know the reason why the Government are following a discriminating policy of taking action only on the report with regard to four districts and not with regard to the other districts ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar : —" Because those reports were received first."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" May I know whether the Government have come to any conclusion with regard to hand-spinning and weaving ? The hon. Minister said that they have not come to any conclusion as yet. The Special Officer makes abundant reference to this industry in the report. The answer does not indicate what action the Government have taken on those proposals."

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" The Committee will go into the question."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" May I ask if the hon. Minister has read the reports ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" I am presumed to have read the reports."

*Progress of the survey of cottage industries.*

* 156 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) how far the survey of cottage industries has now progressed ; and

(b) what steps Government contemplate to take to encourage cottage industries in various parts of the Presidency ?

A.—(a) The survey of all districts has been completed and the reports of the Special Officer including the final report for the Presidency have been placed on the table of the House.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 155.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" I wish to know what action the Government have taken on the various suggestions of the Special Officer at page 5."

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" They will be referred to the Committee."